Monday
13th ~~A~~
Dec.
1937

52 Tavistock Sqre.

Well I hope things are going as well in
Manchr. Cecily thought my mother in law
was raging yesterday. She had heard all
about you & Pan from a Stock broker
called Smith (Shirts) who lives at
Woking — greatly admires you.
But Vita is coming in to dine for a
wonder — first time I should think this
year — we must hurry.
What I was going to say was that your
gift was inscribed copy so much
touched that I lost my heart this
other night that I didn't, as I ought,
insist that I will only take it from you
if you swear that you won't mind, and

won't misinterpret, my silence. The truth is
I've been so badgered all these years for
opinions on books that I can't stumble
out another, even if I like it. So I implore
my friends not to give me their books, dear!
mant, in the way of legacies, continue to read
so many by Lora. And how could my
opinion of what you say of M.B. have any
shade of value, coming from one perplexed
by the subject you're dealing with? As
Lord how did the B.B.C. do your Concert?
No chance of hearing it, tho' there again my
remarks wd. be worthless. Of course I'm
longing to read your book: it only an opinion I want
give. Hilda was here, & Jane Leonard a
harrowing account of Dotty. I wish
I could send my sympathy; but I don't see how,
my relations being fostered as they are.
Do goodbye. Perhaps Vita will illumine them. She's
coming to consult about some violent letters her Aunt
is writing to the papers — her mothers brother —
about Pepita.

V.

NYPL
Rota 2.4.63

26th Dec. 1937

Monks Moore
Rodmell

The book came just as I was coming
here: there it is: & here am I, silent,
but grateful. I'll try, if I can
find one, to read a novel of MB's again.
That'll be the best return I can make
for the generous impulse which prompted the
uncastrated cat — to whom, by the way, I
listened in the other night, with great
enjoyment; partly I admit, for the human
quality of the aforesaid grandchild: very
friendly but not necessarily altogether
approving voice. I like hearing your
voice talking about the Kaiser, &
supplying it simultaneously with
Gentle other words. A harmless amusement

you'll allow.

We're entirely marooned here. Foot & mouth to right of us, to left of us, foot & mouth all round us, so that if we want to step off the road we have to drive 5 miles. A maniac he an old farmer who cut me off my ~~one~~ One walk's purest pleasure! There are the marshes, I can't walk there. I can't there, can't read, can't write. However I've taken the whole of one of Pitt's Harbourg tiles. Blessing be on an inside that must be lined with felt — cased with iron. Leonard can't... A man breaks in from the Cave where Christ was born. (BBC) How repulsive the Xtian religion as conveyed by the Xtian clergyman is — 'But it has on this occasion the virtue of interrupting the latter. The man is actually on the NYPL stone where Christ was born — he is apparently chilly: he is also silly: a poem in every — so, as Mrs Pankhurst used to say

No more —

V.

Rota 2.4.63

VIII

52,
Tavistock Square,
W.C.1.
Telephone : Museum 2621.

4th Jan. 38

X Lud! what an inconsistent woman you are!
Merci a lettre before me in which you beg
"of course I don't want you to say anything about
my book. I'm giving it you simply
because it pleases me to give it you" — & then
when I stick to my side of the bargain you
cry off. Never mind: I'll accept your
inconsistency: wait some time, not this
moment.

I've been devilishly unwell. L. was
taken ill at Monks House last week. We came
up & saw the doctor who first thought it was
prostate gland: then disease of the kidney.
Again an intolerable 5 days — X ray,
specialist &c — keeps us here to bed
for a week, or verdict, & will

Rota 2.4.43

Ct-en know the final verdict on Saturday — another 5 days However the X Ray proved that there is no disease whatever; & the Dr. seems to think that at with pass off. Both & I are nothing: he's much better already.

But I'm a good deal distracted, I mean from reading Virginia Woolf, or writing reports on them, as there's all the Press Interviews to convey from the basement up here: & the letters to answer. The dog to walk.

If all goes well, we hope to get off to Bradnell next week: but that remains to be seen. Anyhow I'm glad to hear about your dog & that, for some mysterious reason, this harassed, ineffective woman (though so far I've shown. & - yes - that common sense in the Emergency) has been a prop to you magnificent a one as the Strat & Thel- Yes, I'd very much like Jacob some time: not the moment. I'll write again.

V.

52, Tavistock Square, w.c.1.
Telephone : Museum 2621.

Thursday
27th Jan. 38

I'm sorry I never answered— at least do
I repeat. We came back on Sunday & was at
once seized with another influenza: from which
I'm practically recovered (tho' not to the full extent
going out) today. L. will be glad to hear he
really improved: & that much happier. We
have to wait another fortnight for a final
report. It's incredible— the cat & mouse game Dr.—
patient nowadays. Mrs Vanessa is back from the-

Louis of France, which was under stood, & managed by
Metival. Mark my temp- Chart. And what is yours?
In my debased condition I do nothing but read,
Chateaubriand: & see no one: hence should ye rapture a
picture of the Great world, it cannot be supplied.
Did the dog make a good week ends? The bitch, but it?
No: ye wont have bitches. One bitch, mated NYPL for the 2nd
time 5 weeks ago, again shows no signs of childbirth, his
Duncan Juliana: & sts laid to Lis charge. Love to him they
say, has turned her barren. Now I must fly to
Ch d. Memoires again: I left Napoleon retreating from
Moscow. Hum to me a marshi-ga, only a detestable
Nam Bestonie man (C. I mean: not Nap.)

V.

Jan-31

38

52,
Tavistock Square,
W.C.1.
Telephone: Museum 2621.

31st Jan 1938

What a curse! Thinking I was cured, I went out after I'd written to you, to walk in Regents Park: Came back to 101 again; so more bed: still belonged. I think I shall lie low this week. The recovered next. I'm shutting my door on the world.

I'm glad the dog is so promising. And I saw some where that MB is a her self. To Ka- here the tide is turning. Ka can't write: but can read, Ka- is as well as memory: here's to us for -

V.

Jan-31
38

52,
Tavistock Square,
W.C.1.
Telephone: Museum 2621.

31st Jan 1938

What a curse! Thinking I was cured, I went out after I'd written to you, to walk in Regents Park: Came back to 101 again; so more tired. Still belonged. I think I shall lie low this week. The recovered next. I'm shutting my door on the world.

I'm glad the dog is so promising. And I saw some where that MB is a keen dealer. To Vi- who can't write: but can read, farming. letters as well as memoirs: hope to see you soon -

V.

Jan 31. /38

NYPL

Jan 31 - 38

Rota 2.4.63